

SISYRNOPHORUS MACULATUS, sp. n.

Testaceo-ferrugineus, convexus, nitidus, pubescens; thorace maculis tribus, scutello, elytrisque maculis rotundatis octo, nigris.

Long. 4 lin., lat. 3¼ lin.

Head sub-rotundate, not very convex, with fine punctures not thickly scattered over the surface; eyes moderately large, but not prominent; antennæ with the 5th joint scarcely as broad as long, the 6th to 10th joints very gradually a little shorter and stouter. Thorax distinctly broader than the head, very convex, finely and moderately thickly punctured, one-fifth broader than long, very gently narrowed in front, entirely rounded behind, finely margined, the anterior angles a little less than right angles; a discoidal spot and a smaller spot on each side black. Elytra twice as broad as the thorax, about as long as broad, very convex and ample, broadest across the middle, gently rounded at the sides and apex; each elytron arched and gently sinuous at the base, with four rather large round black spots, one humeral, one marginal, and two near the suture.

Head and thorax sub-retractile.

Hab.: Philippine Islands.

Brit. Mus.

SISYRNOPHORUS BOWRINGII, sp. n.

Fulvo-testaceus, nitidus, longe pubescens.

Long. 2 lin., lat. 1⅔ lin.

Head not thickly, and very finely, punctured. Thorax very convex, extremely finely and not thickly punctured, very slightly narrowed in front, entirely rounded and margined behind, anterior angles a little less than right angles, blunted. Elytra very convex, nearly circular in outline, slightly truncate at their base, each elytron arched at its base, with the surface moderately thickly and very distinctly punctured.

Hab.: Penang (J. C. Bowring, Esq.).

Brit. Mus.

British Museum: *September 6th, 1876.*

DESCRIPTIONS OF HITHERTO UNCHARACTERIZED PHYTOPHAGA.

BY JOSEPH S. BALY, F.L.S.

(continued from page 10.)

Fam. HISPIDÆ.

CALLISPA ELEGANS.

Oblongo-ovata, subdepressa, rufo-fulva, nitida, antennis nigris; elytris sat fortiter punctato-striatis, striis apicem versus tenuiter punctatis; plagâ magnâ læte cyaneâ, partem dimidiam posticam fere amplectente, ornatis.

Long. 2 lin.

Hab.: Sumatra, Pulo Penang.

Antennæ half the length of the body, entirely black. Thorax twice as broad as long, sides straight and parallel in the ♂, slightly converging from base to apex in

the ♀, suddenly rounded and converging at the extreme apex in both sexes; anterior angles very obtuse, ill-defined, hinder angles rectangular; upper surface longitudinally excavated on either side, surface of the excavations deeply variolose-punctate; disc smooth, remotely punctured, the punctures arranged in irregular longitudinal rows. Elytra broader than the thorax, oblong, their apices broadly rounded; above strongly punctate-striate, the punctures finer and less deeply impressed towards the apex; the hinder half of the elytra covered with a large, common, cyaneous patch, usually abbreviated on the extreme lateral and apical margins, but sometimes extended, so as to entirely cover the former.

CALLISPA AFRICANA.

Elongata, subdepressa, picea, nitida, antennis nigris, articulis intermediis piceis, thorace, abdomine, femoribus, tibiisque obscure flavis; thorace varioloso-punctato, medio utrinque transversim excavato; elytris sat fortiter punctato-striatis, fusco-violaceis, metallico-nitentibus.

Long. 2 lin.

Hab.: Banks of the Niger.

Vertex smooth, its hinder portion impressed with a few fine variolose punctures; antennæ not half the length of the body, slender, slightly thickened towards the apex, four or five intermediate joints pitchy, the rest black, second joint rather longer than the first, the third equal in length to the two preceding united. Thorax twice as broad as long, sides parallel at the extreme base, thence rounded and converging to the apex, anterior angles produced, acute; above, depressed, excavated across the middle on either side, leaving a narrow ill-defined central ridge; at the base, just in front of the scutellum, is a smaller depression; surface impressed with large round variolose punctures. Elytra scarcely broader than the thorax, parallel, their apices regularly rounded.

HISPOPRIA TERMINALIS.

Oblongo-elongatula, depressa, fulva, nitida, genubus tarsisque piceis, antennis elytrorumque dimidio postico nigris. Long. 4½ lin.

Hab.: Mindanao.

Head finely rugose-punctate, neck shining, impunctate, transversely impressed behind the eyes; antennæ half the length of the body, entirely black. Thorax about one-third as broad again as long, sides straight and very slightly diverging from the base to before the middle, thence obliquely converging to the apex, the outer margin irregularly dentate; above, flattened, sub-cylindrical at the extreme apex, disc covered with large round shallow punctures, the apex, together with a longitudinal space on the middle of the disc, free from punctures. Scutellum oblong-ovate, sinuate on the sides, the apex obtusely rounded. Elytra narrowly oblong, sides parallel, here and there faintly notched, sub-acutely rounded at the apex, each elytron with its extreme apex emarginate, and the sutural angle armed with a small acute tooth; upper surface deeply and regularly punctate-striate, interspaces minutely granulose, plane, slightly thickened on the outer disc and towards

the apex. Anterior pair of thighs thickened, armed beneath with a strong tooth; anterior tibiæ curved, gradually thickened from base to apex, the latter produced inwardly into a strong spine.

PROMECOTHECA CALLOSA.

Elongata, subcylindrica, nigra, nitida, elytris fulvis, profunde foveolato-striatis; thorace basi strangulato, utrinque in callum obtusum magnum producto. *Long. 4½ lin.*

Hab.: Australia, Port Essington.

Vertex smooth, impunctate; antennæ slender, more than half the length of the body. Thorax longer than broad, subcylindrical, strangulated posteriorly, produced on either side into a large obtuse callosity, basal margin impressed with a deep transverse groove; disc smooth and shining, nearly impunctate, only a few minute punctures being visible on the sides in front, on the lateral callosities. Scutellum triangular, excavated near the apex, the latter truncate. Elytra broader than the thorax, parallel, obliquely rounded at the apex, the apices conjoined obtusely angulate; upper surface deeply foveolate-striate, clothed at the apex with a few coarse hairs. Four hinder thighs armed beneath with a stout spine near the apex.

DOWNESIA STRIGICOLLIS.

Filiformis, subcylindrica, nigra, subnitida, suprâ sub-opaca, abdomine flavo; thorace subquadrato, disco utrinque oblique deflexo, longitudinaliter sulcato-strigoso; elytris elongatis, profunde punctato-striatis, singulatim tricarinatis, carinis duabus internis medio fere obsoletis. *Long. 2½ lin.*

Hab.: Cochin China.

Face distinctly punctured between the eyes, vertex smooth, impunctate. Thorax rather longer than broad, subquadrate, sides parallel, very slightly dilated at the base, notched at the hinder angle, the latter armed with a fine lateral tooth; anterior angles nearly rectangular, their apices obtuse; basal margin impressed with a deep transverse groove, apical border sub-cylindrical, impressed with a single row of punctures; disc divided on the medial line into two oblique planes, the surfaces of which are closely covered with slightly oblique longitudinal grooved strigæ; these planes meet at an angle on the middle of the disc, and form at the point of junction a distinct ridge which extends longitudinally for the whole length of the thorax. Scutellum small, triangular. Elytra scarcely broader than the thorax, parallel, very slightly dilated behind the middle, apices obtusely rounded, each emarginate at the sutural angle, apical margin very finely serrulate; above deeply punctate-striate, each elytron with three elevated carinæ, the two inner only visible at the base and apex, apex of suture also carinate, interspaces each with a single row of punctures, hinder half of the second, together with the whole extent of the third, impressed with a second row. Tibiæ thickened, anterior pair with the upper edge notched, compressed and dilated at the base.

PRIONISPA GEMMATA.

Cuneiformis, subdepressa, pallide picea, nitida, pedibus pallide fulvis; suprâ metallico-viridis, antennis pallide piceis; thorace crebre foveolato; elytris profunde foveolato-striatis, ad apicem costis nonnullis instructis, late (basi exceptâ) piceo-limbatis. Long. 2 lin.

Hab.: Batchian.

Front produced between the antennæ into an angular projection, lower portion of vertex coarsely punctured, eyes bordered above by a distinct groove. Thorax subcylindrical, scarcely broader than long, sides straight and parallel, notched at base and apex, anterior angles armed with an obtuse tooth; disc closely covered with large round foveate punctures, their interspaces granulose; on the medial line is a longitudinal groove. Scutellum narrowly oblong, its apex obtuse. Elytra much broader at the base than the thorax, oblong, gradually dilated from base to apex, the latter truncate, its outer angle produced laterally into a large, flat, triangular, obtuse spine, upper surface depressed along the inner disc, the humeral callus laterally prominent; flattened surface bounded on its middle third by a large oblong excavation, the inner edge of which is costate; apex of elytron with several short longitudinal costæ; surface regularly and deeply foveolate-punctate; interspaces finely granulose-punctate, those on the outer disc thickened and subcostate; surface of excavation smooth and shining, not granulose, more or less tinged with golden. Anterior pair of tibiæ armed with a short spine within, near the apex.

Dr. Chapuis has described two species of this genus; one, *P. nitida*, from Java, has been previously characterized by Guérin under the name of *Hispa sexspinosa*.

GONOPHORA CHAPUISI.

Elongata, postice vix ampliata, dorso depresso, fulva, nitida, antennis elytris que pone medium nigris; thorace ante basin transversim excavato, disco lævi, medio longitudinaliter sulcato, utrinque foveis nonnullis magnis impresso; elytris profunde punctato-striatis, interstitiis alternis elevato-costatis. Long. $2\frac{1}{2}$ lin.

Hab.: Philippine Islands.

Antennæ slender, three-fourths the length of the body, two lower joints short, equal in length, the basal one sub-globose, piceous; third joint nearly as long as the two preceding united, the fourth about equal in length to the third. Thorax broader than long, sides nearly parallel at the base, rounded in the middle, converging and slightly sinuate at the apex; above, convex, deeply and broadly excavated transversely at the base; disc smooth, impressed in the middle with a short longitudinal groove, and on either side with several deep foveate punctures. Elytra broader than the thorax, very slightly increasing in width towards the apex, the latter regularly rounded, lateral margin minutely serrulate; upper surface deeply and strongly punctate-striate, the suture and each alternate interspace strongly costate, the third costa less elevated than the rest, and obliterated for a great portion of its length; interstices between the punctures transversely costulate.

Warwick: September, 1876.

ON CERTAIN BRITISH HEMIPTERA-HOMOPTERA.

Description of a species of the Genus LIBURNIA new to Great Britain.

BY JOHN SCOTT.

LIBURNIA FLAVEOLA.

Delphax flaveola, Flor, Rhyn. Livl., ii, 72, 19; Kirschb., Cicad., 33, 31, ♀.

♀ Undeveloped.

Yellow or somewhat ferruginous.

Head—*crown* more or less ferruginous, foveæ shallow, but distinct. *Face* more or less ferruginous; central longitudinal keel acute; disc on either side of the keel, flattish concave. *Clypeus* more or less ferruginous. *Eyes* brown. *Antenna* brown; 1st and 2nd joints yellow or ferruginous. *Ocelli* black. *Rostrum*—apex black.

Thorax—*pronotum* and *scutellum* yellow or inclined to ferruginous. *Elytra* pale yellow, transparent, about one-half the length of the abdomen, apex broadly rounded. *Legs* yellow. *Claws* dark brown.

Abdomen yellow or ferruginous.

♀ Developed.

Elytra pale, transparent; nerves pale, finely granulated. *Membrane*: marginal and inner nerves slightly brownish. All the other characters as in the undeveloped form. Length, $1\frac{1}{4}$ line undev., $1\frac{1}{2}$ dev.

Most nearly allied to *L. straminea*, Stål, a species not yet ascertained to be British. The distinction between the two insects is easiest to be observed by the examination and comparison of the genitalia of the ♂.

Two specimens captured by Dr. Power, on Barnes Common, in July last.

Lec: August 19th, 1876.

ON MELANISM.

BY EDWIN BIRCHALL, F.L.S.

It is well known that specimens of many *Lepidoptera* from the Highlands of Scotland vary widely from English examples of the same species, and that the variation is usually towards a darker coloration; that there is, in short, a tendency to the production of melanic varieties, and that in some cases a dark variety has completely supplanted the lighter coloured type; but, so far as I know, no satisfactory explanation of these facts has been suggested, none at least which covers the whole ground. It has been said that the production of